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## CLINICAL LECTURES.

### 2. POINTED ABDOMEN.—MACERATED FETUS; ABORTION OCCURRING IN SIXTH MONTH.—DIAG- NOSIS OF DEATH OF FETUS.<sup>1</sup>

BY THEOPHILUS PARVIN, M. D.,  
PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN  
AND CHILDREN, JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
PHILADELPHIA.

I begin this morning the seventh year of  
lecturing upon clinical obstetrics at the  
Philadelphia Hospital. During my term of  
service, of three months, the opportunity  
of delivering some twelve lectures is pre-  
sented. Go back about a century in the  
history of medical teaching in this city, and  
you will find that in the only school then  
existing the Professor of Anatomy and Sur-

gery, Dr. William Shippen, was also the  
Professor of Obstetrics. Go back half a  
century—or at least about that time—and  
you will learn that in the second oldest  
school, the Professor of Materia Medica  
and Therapeutics, Dr. Eberle, was for a  
short period also Professor of Obstetrics.  
Dr. Shippen completed his obstetric teach-  
ing with twelve lectures. Probably Dr.  
Eberle did not greatly exceed this number.  
Now, however, the medical student hears  
not less than fifty or sixty lectures upon this  
subject each winter in the college he may be  
attending, and this instruction is supple-  
mented by hospital teaching; so, that which  
formerly was taught in a dozen lectures now  
demands between one and two hundred.

### Pointed Abdomen.

Eight weeks ago there was presented to  
you a woman who had passed seven months  
of pregnancy, and who offered a curious  
conformation of the abdomen; the ab-  
dominal wall was peculiarly prominent at the

<sup>1</sup> Delivered at the Philadelphia Hospital.

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The Editor will be glad to get medical news, but it is important that brevity and actual interest shall characterize communications intended for publication.

## TRANSPLANTATION OF THE THYROID.

Professor Lannelongue has recently, as reported in the *Bulletin Médical*, March 9, 1890, carried into effect the suggestion of Professor Horsley in the *British Med. Journal*, Feb. 8, 1890, to transplant to the human body the thyroid gland of a sheep, in the hope that it would supply the want of the natural thyroid in cases of what is known as myxœdema, or *cachexia strumipriva*.

Lannelongue has actually made the experiment on a girl fourteen years old, who was a typical myxœdematous cretin, and under his care and that of Dr. Legroux in the Trousseau Hospital. He removed the thyroid gland of a young adult sheep, and implanted two-thirds of its left lobe in a pocket prepared below the right breast of

the patient. The neck could not be utilized, on account of the presence of myxœdematous tumors. The operation was done aseptically, and as bloodlessly as possible. The dressing was first changed after eight days, and the wound was found to be perfectly healed.

What will become of the implanted gland tissue, it is too soon to say; and, equally, no reasonable expectation can be formed as to the effect upon the economy of such a procedure. The hopes founded upon theory justify the experiment; but it must be understood that it is an experiment only and nothing more. The result of some experiments conducted by Schiff and Eiselberg some years ago indicate that this method may have promise of real usefulness. It is as yet a sort of curiosity in surgery; but it may some day be much more.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SUSPECTS.

The importance of correct notions in regard to the subject of medical examination of persons suspected of lapses from virtue or of legal offenses in connection with the generative function is the subject of an Editorial in the *Lancet*, February 22, 1890. The article is founded upon a recent paper by Mr. W. F. Lowndes, in the *Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal*, and refers to his experience as a surgeon to the Liverpool police as giving authority to the warning he addresses to medical men with regard to examinations of women suspected of recent delivery, and concealment of birth or child murder, of domestic servants suspected of being pregnant, and of males in custody for alleged indecent assaults. Mr. Lowndes shows clearly that in England such examinations are illegal without the consent of the party examined, supporting his position by reference to cases that have been made actionable with disastrous results to the medical man, and citing the case of an unfortunate lady who, accused of child murder, committed suicide rather than submit to the